AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following section headings on amended page 1, after the title and at line 2:

-- BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1) Field of the Invention --

Please replace the paragraph on amended page 1, beginning at line 3, with the following replacement paragraph:

-- The invention relates to a device for heating liquids, comprising a first liquid container ~~for liquid for heating~~, a second liquid container, which second liquid container is at least partially filled with an intermediary liquid, and a heating element coupled to the second liquid container, wherein heat transfer from the heating element to the liquid for heating takes place at least substantially via the intermediary liquid. The invention also relates to an assembly for use in such a device. --

Please insert the following section heading on amended page 1, at line 9:

-- 2) Description of the Related Art --

Please insert the following section heading on amended page 2, at line 3:

-- SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --

Please replace the paragraph on amended page 2, beginning at line 3, and continuing on amended page 3, with the following replacement paragraph:

-- The invention provides for this purpose a device ~~of the type stated in the preamble~~for heating liquids, characterized in that an underpressure is present in the second liquid container at room temperature. By applying an underpressure in the second container at room temperature, the boiling point of the intermediary liquid is reduced and thus enhances vapour bubble formation, and therefore also the heat transfer. In this manner liquids can be heated in a relatively quick and energy-saving manner. As mentioned ~~afore~~before heating of the liquid for heating via the intermediary liquid has the substantial advantage that the heating element per se remains substantially unaffected, since direct physical contact between the heating element and the liquid for heating is prevented. No deposition on the heating element of components present in the liquid for heating will therefore occur. The fact that the heating element remains unaffected

generally has the result that at least a substantial part of the heat produced by the heating element will be transferred to the intermediary liquid. The intermediary liquid will then (partially) evaporate to an intermediary gas fraction formed by vapour bubbles, whereafter the vapour bubbles will then rise via or through the intermediary liquid and subsequently condense at a relatively cool location, i.e. generally at the position of the first liquid container, while generating condensation heat to the liquid for heating. It is noted that the liquid for heating can be of very diverse nature. Water for instance can thus be heated using the device according to the invention, but also oil or other liquids which may or may not be viscous, and dispersions (such as an emulsion or suspension). It is also possible to heat solids, such as food, present in the liquid using the device according to the invention. The heating element will usually only be in contact with the relatively pure intermediary liquid. Direct physical contact between the heating element and the intermediary liquid is not however essential. A relatively good thermal contact is however essential. By applying a heating element which is at least substantially always clean a maximum heat transfer will therefore always be possible from heating element to intermediary liquid. Furthermore, as the heating element remains relatively clean after (frequent) use, the lifespan of a heating element applied according to the invention is generally much greater. It will be possible to only partially fill the second liquid container with the intermediary liquid, and a remaining part of the liquid container will be formed by an intermediary gas, in particular intermediary vapour, corresponding to the intermediary liquid. During operation of the device the intermediary liquid in the second liquid container is heated by the heating element, whereby evaporation of (a part of) the intermediary liquid will take place. The resulting intermediary vapour will condense against the relatively cool second liquid container and generate condensation heat. The heat absorbed by the second liquid container is then relinquished to the liquid for heating received in the first liquid container. Vapour formation or gas formation in the intermediary liquid thus plays an important part during the heat transfer from the heating element to the liquid for heating. It is noted that the amount of intermediary liquid is preferably sufficient to prevent the heating element boiling dry, also for instance in the case the device is in inclining position. In the case for instance no underpressure is applied in the second liquid container, the

intermediary gas (vapour) in equilibrium with the intermediary liquid can also form part of a different gas, such as atmospheric air. --

Please insert the following section heading on amended page 6, at line 5:

-- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS --

Please insert the following section heading on amended page 6, at line 14:

-- DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS --